

MARCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
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ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
AND THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE
YEAR 1949.



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1949.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you
my report for the year 1949.

A report from the Sanitary Inspector
is also included.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

S. GOVERNOR.

Medical Officer of Health.

(i) Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health - S. Governor. M.B., B.Ch.

Sanitary Inspector. - R.C.L. Williams, B.E.M. (Mil).,
M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
(January to 14th October, 1949).

H. Burton, M.R.S.I., G.S.I.B.,
(18th November, to 31st December, 1949).

(ii) General Statistics.

Area in Acres 19,777.
Population (Registrar-General's estimate for 1949) 13,170.
Number of inhabited houses 3,870.
Rateable Value £49,878.
Amount represented by 1d rate (Revised estimate .£201, 6s 4d.
1949/1950).

The estimated population shows an increase of
20 on the 1948 figure.

(iii) Vital Statistics.

Table I - Live Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	107	94	201
Illegitimate	5	4	7
	110	98	208

The birth rate is 15.78 per 1,000 population and it
compares favourably with the birth rate for England
and Wales which is 16.7. In 1948 the birth rate in
the district was 15.05 compared with 17.9 for England
and Wales.

Table II - Still-Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	3	1	4

The rate for still-births is 0.30 per 1,000 compared with 0.39 for England and Wales.

Table III - Infantile Mortality

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	3	1	4

The infantile mortality rate is 19.2 per 1,000 live births compared with 32 for England and Wales. This is a considerable decrease on the local figure for 1948 when the rate for the district was 30.3 compared with 34 for England and Wales.

The causes of infantile deaths were as follows:-

Premature	1
Inanition	1
Infantile asthenia	1
Asphyxia neonatorum	1
	<u>4</u>

There were no deaths during the year from infantile diarrhoea (under 2 years).

Table IV - Deaths in the Area and Causes

	Male	Female	Total
T.B. of respiratory system	1	1	2
Influenza.	1	1	2
Cancer	17	10	27
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	7	13	20
Heart disease.	25	20	45
Other diseases of circulatory system	5	1	6
Bronchitis	2	9	11
Pneumonia.	1	1	2
Other respiratory diseases	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	-	1	1
Other digestive diseases	2	2	4
Nephritis.	2	1	3
Premature births	1	1	2
Congenital malformations, etc,	1	-	1
Diabetes	1	3	4
Violent causes	1	1	2
Road Traffic Accidents	2	0	2
Suicide	2	0	2
All other causes	9	8	17
	<u>81</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>155</u>

The death rate in March this year is 11.0 per 1,000 population compared with 11.7 for England and Wales. Last year's figures were 11.4 compared with 10.8 for England and Wales.

The following table gives the percentages of deaths in the principal age groups.

Under 1 year	2.58
1 - 5 years	.0
6 - 15 years	.65
16 - 65 years	30.96
66 and over	65.81
	<hr/> 100.00% <hr/>

(iv) Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

Infectious Diseases notified:-

Puerperal pyrexia	1
Erysipelas	3
Measles	9
Scarlet Fever	15
Whooping Cough	6
Lobar Pneumonia	2
T.B. - Pulmonary	9
T.B. - Non-pulmonary	1
	<hr/> 46 <hr/>

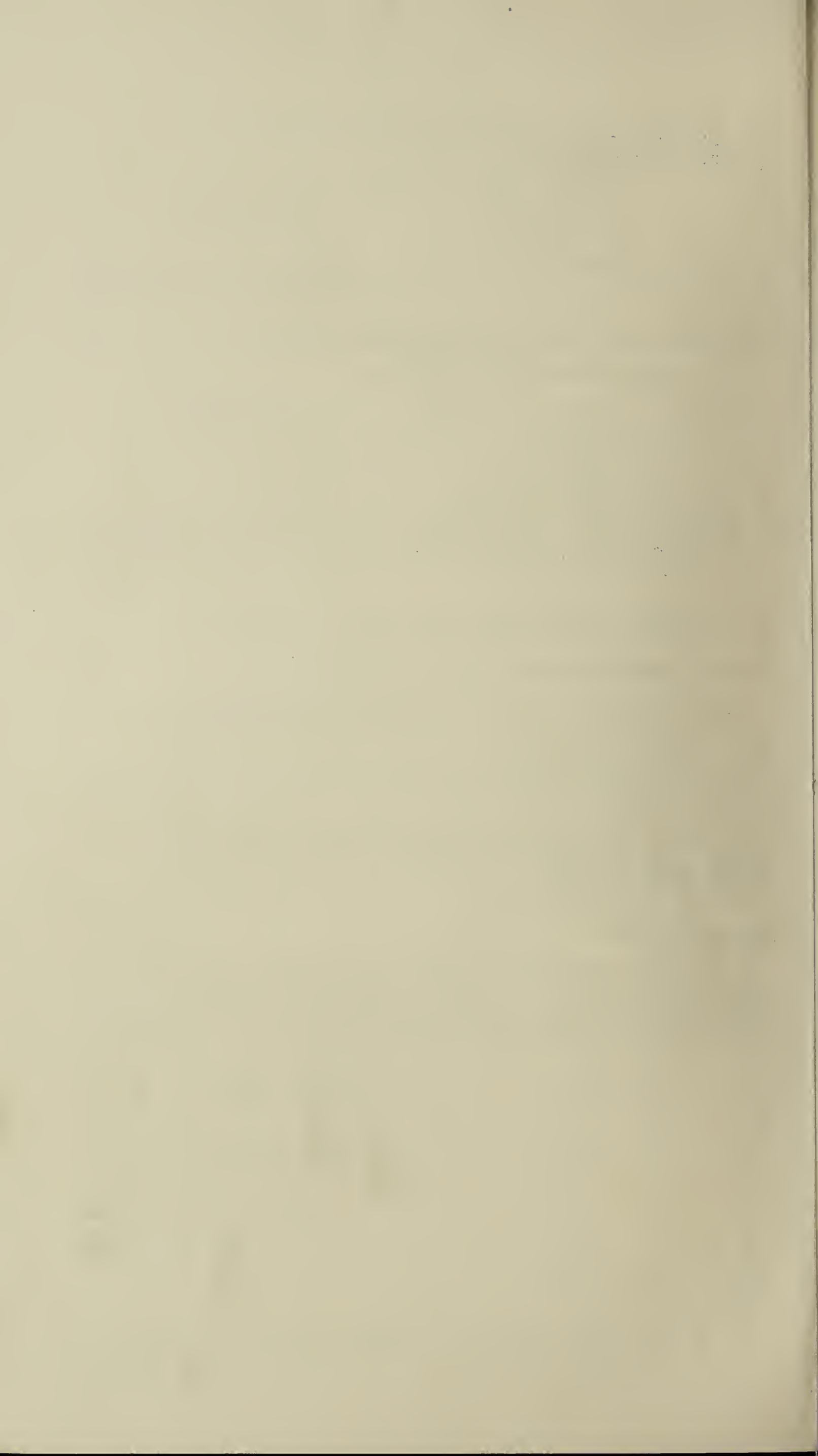
All the Scarlet Fever cases were nursed at home.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

One male person aged 35 was removed by the Council in accordance with the provisions of the above Act, as being aged, infirm, living in insanitary conditions and being unable to devote to himself and not receiving from other persons proper care and attention. In addition he was suffering from a large rodent ulcer at the back of the neck. The Court Order dated 14th June, 1949, was for a period of three months and removal effected to the Clarkson Hospital, Wisbech. At the termination of this period the patient volunteered to remain in Hospital but subsequently died on the 20th November, 1949.

Typhoid 'Carrier'.

Following an outbreak of Typhoid Fever the previous year there is still one 'carrier' living in an isolated part of the district. Samples of Faeces are taken weekly and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge.



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year 1949.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following are details of visits and inspections carried out in 1949:-

Public Health Act : Nuisances	.	.	.	.	.	.	97
Housing Acts ; Disrepair.	.	.	.	.	.	.	152
Housing Acts : Overcrowding	.	.	.	.	.	.	42
Cowsheds.	.	.	.	.	.	.	48
Dairies	.	.	.	.	.	.	115
Slaughthouses	.	.	.	.	.	.	334
Knackers Yards	.	.	.	.	.	.	14
Bakchouses	.	.	.	.	.	.	11
Fried Fish Shops.	.	.	.	.	.	.	34
Food Preparing Premises	.	.	.	.	.	.	65
Other Food Shops and Stores	.	.	.	.	.	.	78
Factories and Workshops	.	.	.	.	.	.	24
Infectious Diseases	.	.	.	.	.	.	183
Verminous Premises (inc. Rats and Mice)	.	.	.	.	.	.	58
Piggeries	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
Refuse Accommodation,	.	.	.	.	.	.	20
Moveable Dwellings	.	.	.	.	.	.	31
Sanitary Conveniences	.	.	.	.	.	.	18
Water Supplies	.	.	.	.	.	.	29
Drain Inspections	.	.	.	.	.	.	28
Miscellaneous, interviews & meetings.	.	.	.	.	.	.	603
Civil Building Control	.	.	.	.	.	.	44
							<u>2,042</u>

The following tables show defects found and remedied during the year by action under the Public Health & Housing Acts:-

<u>Defects</u>	<u>Defects</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>
<u>found.</u>	<u>remedied.</u>	<u>at end of 1949.</u>

Drainage.

Choked drains	4	4	-
Defective drains	3	3	-
Insufficient drainage	2	2	-
Drainage polluting dykes	4	4	-
Cesspools, defective construction	1	1	-

Sanitary Conveniences.

Defective closets, structure	4	3	1
Defective sanitary pails	2	2	-

Other Nuisances.

Improper disposal of waste water	2	2	-
Accumulation of refuse	5	5	-

Verminous Infestations.

Rats and Mice	44	43	1
Vermin and filthy premises	12	12	-

<u>Housing Defects.</u>	<u>Defects found.</u>	<u>Defects remedied.</u>	<u>Outstanding at end of 1949</u>
Defective roofs	21	16	5
walls	2	2	-
eavespouts	1	-	1
plasterwork	21	11	10
washing accommodation	4	4	-
doors and frames	5	3	2
windows and woodwork	3	1	2
stoves and fireplaces	6	4	2
floors	8	5	3
stairs	3	1	2
Insufficient or defective refuse accommodation	5	4	1
Dampness	6	2	4
	168	134	34

II. HOUSING.

During the year 63 houses were completed by the Council and 14 private houses under licences granted by the Council. Seven licences were issued during the year for the erection of private houses, all seven being for owner-occupation.

Eight building licences were issued for housing work during the year to the value of two thousand, five hundred and forty-eight pounds.

Two houses were condemned under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936, and demolished in accordance with the provisions of the Demolition Order.

III. WATER SUPPLY

There has been no change in the circumstances of the district during the year. The following is the information requested in the Ministry of Health's Circular 2/50.

- (i) Whether the water supply of the area and of its parts has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. - Yes.
- (ii) Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations have been made of the water, and the results of any analysis. - No official samples have been taken on behalf of the Council; the water is known to be examined at regular intervals on behalf of the Water Company.
- (iii) The position as to the contamination by lead. - The water is hard and has no plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) Action as to contamination.- There has been no evidence of contamination during the year.
- (v) Particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of population supplied from public water mains.- (a) Direct to houses - 90%. (b) by means of stand-pipes - 10%.

IV. Meat and Food Inspection. The number of animals killed during the year at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses in the town was as follows:- 139 Cows; 804 Other Bovines; 118 Calves; 1,127 Sheep; 595 Pigs; Total 2,733. This is an increase on the figure for 1948 when the corresponding number was 2,663.

Condemnations during the year included the following whole carcasses:- 10 Cows; 6 Other Bovines; 6 Calves; 2 Sheep; 30 pigs; Total 54, together with a quantity of offals and parts of carcasses bringing the total weight of meat and offals condemned up to 14 tons, 4 cwts., 2 qrs., 12½ lbs.

	Cows	Other Bovines.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total.
No. of animals killed.	139	804	118	1,127	595	2,783
Condemnations: Tuberculosis Whole carcasses.	4	3	-	-	7	14
Part carcasses and/or organs.	110	152	-	-	10	227
% of animals affected with Tuberculosis.	43.88	11.19	-	-	5.52	-
Condemnations Other Causes Whole Carcasses.	6	3	6	2	23	40
Part carcasses and/or organs.	77	451	1	25	58	612
% of animals affected with Other Diseases.	46.04	42.66	5.06	0.62	13.94	-

(b) Other Foods. Many inspections were made during the year of stocks of other food stuffs, and the following were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

(i)	<u>Tinned Goods.</u>	<u>No. of Tins.</u>	<u>Weight lbs.</u>
	Milk	179	168½
	Jam	5	7
	Fruit	9	13½
	Meat	22	38
	Fish	29	24
	Vegetables	68	50
		312	301

(ii)	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>Weight lbs.</u>
	Bacon	121
	Haddock	6
	Cheese	86
	Figs	11½
	Flour	8
	Soft French Cheese	46
	Sausages	1
	Smoked Cod	42
	Smoked Sausages	7
	28 Bottles Salad Cream	15½
	Sugar	7
	Pudding Mixture	13½
	Suet	28
	Prunes	1½

All the unsound food was voluntarily surrendered and in no case was seizure under the Food and Drugs Act, required.

V. MILK AND DAIRIES.

The Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act, 1944, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1949, saw a division in the delegation of work relevant to milk production and control. Certain work formerly carried out by the Local Authority is now done by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries and the County Council. Consequently the Report shows a decrease in inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies from the previous year.

Milk Samples:- From 1st January, 1949, to 30th September, 1949, the following milk samples were examined by the Medical Research Council, Public Health Laboratory Service, Cambridge.

(a) The following is a summary of the reports on non-designated milk samples taken:-

No. of samples taken.	Satisfied both tests.	Satisfied coliform but not methylene blue.	Satisfied methylene blue but not coliform.	Failed both tests.
33	19	5	4	5

(b) Biological Examination. Nine samples of milk were taken for biological examination for the detection of tubercle bacilli. There was no evidence of Tuberculosis on post mortem examination of any of the inoculated guinea pigs.

(c) Pasteurised Milk. Samples were also taken of Pasteurised Milk being sold in the district, for examination in accordance with the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1946. The following table shows the results:-

No of samples taken.	Satisfied both tests.	Satisfied methylene blue but not phosphatase.	Satisfied phosphatase but not methylene blue.	Failed both tests.
36	31	2	3	0

VI. ICE-CREAM - BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Seventeen samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and examined by the methylene blue test adapted for ice-cream. The provisional grading of samples was as follows:-

Grade 1.	Grade 2.	Grade 3.	Grade 4.	Total.
9	7	-	1	17

Eight of these samples were submitted for fat content giving the following results:-

1. 5.22%. 2. 5.46%. 3. 2.63%. 4. 9.17%. 5. 5.48%.
6. 8.8%. 7. 11.2%. 8. 6.0%.

VII. RATS AND MICE.

One operator is engaged on this work on a part-time basis. Forty-four minor infestations were dealt with during the year.

VIII. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

During the year six licences were issued under Section 269 of Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of the above.

IX. FACTORIES ACT. 1937

Four informal notices were served during the year with regard to sanitary accommodation not in accordance with the Order; two cases were still outstanding at the end of the year.

X. TABLE OF NOTICES SERVED DURING 1949.

	<u>Served during</u> <u>1949.</u>	<u>Complied with</u> <u>by 31.12.49.</u>
Public Health and Housing Acts		
Verbal	10	10
Letter	53	34
Statutory	2	2
Food and Drugs Act, 1938.		
Verbal	6	6
Letter	2	2
Milk and Dairies Order		
Verbal	6	6
Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations		
1949.	2	2
Other Acts and Orders		
Verbal	8	8
Letter	4	4
Factories Act, 1937.		
Verbal	4	4
	<u>97</u>	<u>78</u>

In conclusion, I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the members of the Council, and my colleagues on the staff for their helpful co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. Burton.

Sanitary Inspector.

